

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 850

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend the environmental stewardship of the World Mission Society Church of God in Memphis.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to recognize organizations that serve in myriad ways to improve the health of our citizens and preserve the environmental well-being and aesthetic beauty of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such esteemed organization is the World Mission Society Church of God which enthusiastically serves the City of Memphis and its surrounding communities in Mississippi and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the World Mission Society Church of God was started in South Korea in 1964 and has since spread to the western hemisphere and grown to more than two million members in 2,200 churches worldwide. Their Christian deity is represented in two images, male and female, which adherants believe simply restores the truth of the early church, and for them it is God the Mother who guides and supports mankind with Her abiding understanding of and compassion for human vulnerabilities; and

WHEREAS, on a global scale and through various volunteer campaigns centered on the ecosystem and the environment, the World Mission Society Church of God is cleaning, purifying, and restoring heavily polluted areas back to their natural states; and

WHEREAS, in Memphis, many congregants have focused their clean-up campaigns on the parks in the downtown district; and both Tom Lee Park and Jefferson Davis Park have benefitted accordingly, especially in the recent years when volunteers have periodically revisited these two parks in order to maintain cleanliness; and

WHEREAS, the church's environmental campaigns have not only helped the polluted parks in Memphis and the debris strewn banks of the mighty Mississippi River, but have also reached down to the communities of Southaven, Mississippi; City Hall; and areas along Stateline Road; and

WHEREAS, the goodness of their environmental campaigns aside, the World Mission Society Church of God congregants endeavor in many ways to share the love of Mother, and Memphis congregants have been particularly responsive with visitations and artistic presentations in nursing homes and special care facilities, as well as providing disaster relief for victims of flooding, earthquakes, and hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, the impact of this faith institution's environmental campaigns in Memphis and this nation as whole earned the World Mission Society Church of God the acclaim of Memphis Mayor A.C. Wharton, and in 2011, the church was awarded the United States President's Volunteer Service Award from President Barak Obama; and

WHEREAS, in Memphis, the acts of kindness expressed by the congregants of the World Mission Society Church of God have been meaningful and deeply appreciated. The sanctity of the earth and the environment that sustains human beings comprise a universal tenet of Christianity in all its various forms, and it is fitting for this body to acknowledge this congregation's manifold good works; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize the service to the greater Memphis area that the World Mission Society Church of God has provided, commend its congregants' devout stewardship of and concern for the environment, and extend our best wishes to them for success in all their future endeavors in Christian love.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.